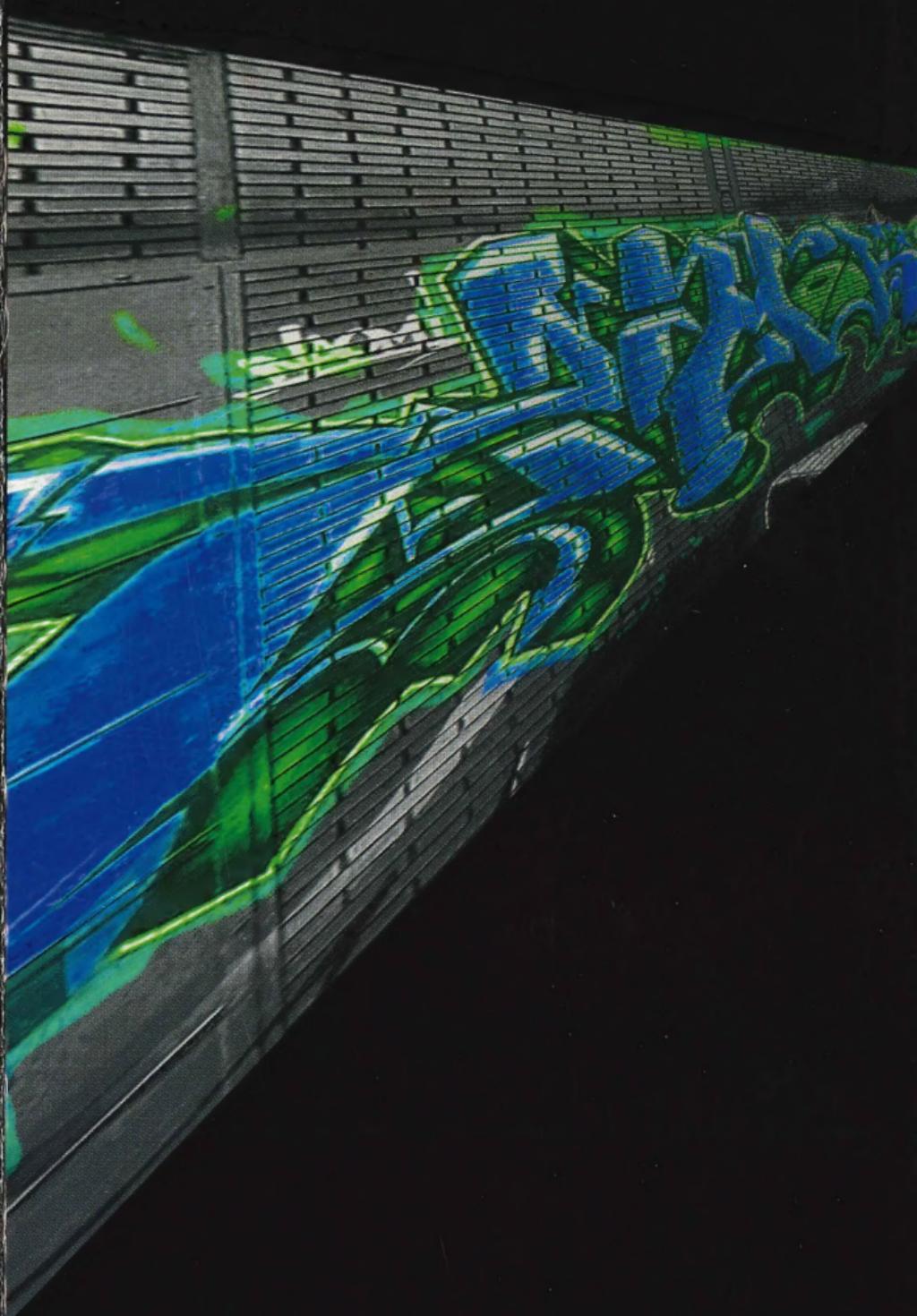


ESPRIT ORCHESTRA

05/06 SEASON



explore
THE NEW CENTURY

Concert 1

Thursday, October 27, 2005



Classics of Our Time

Minnelieder

**Manipulating Mario*

Sinfonietta

Orchestre concertant

R. Murray Schafer

Harry Freedman

Marc-André Dalbavie

José Evangelista

Alex Pauk - conductor

Eleanor James - mezzo-soprano

* World Premiere

8 pm concert

7:15 pm pre-concert talk

Jane Mallett Theatre, 27 Front Street East

Esprit's 23rd season opens with a revival of traditional forms through a fresh approach. A must-see performance of Schafer's love songs features mezzo-soprano Eleanor James, and is followed by Freedman's symphonic synthesis of music from the opera *Mario and the Magician* by Harry Somers. Dalbavie, currently one of the most prominent French composers, will receive his Toronto orchestral premiere. Finally, Esprit's featured composer for the season, José Evangelista, launches the first of three of his works performed by Esprit this season.

Concert 2

Thursday, December 1, 2005

Mystery and Illusion

Ice Field

Henry Brant

The Unanswered Question

Charles Ives

Hommage à Vasarely

John Rea

Postludium

Valentin Silvestrov

Alex Pauk – conductor

Robert Aitken - guest conductor

9 pm concert

(Please note the starting time)

Metropolitan United Church

56 Queen Street East

Esprit moves to the Metropolitan United Church for a program that uses its exceptional space to its fullest resonating potential. The masterpiece *Ice Field* by Henry Brant will be performed using one of the largest organs in Canada. Ives' piece is a celebrated work of mystery and awe, while Rea pays homage to the fantastic textures and optical illusions found in the paintings of Vasarely. A profoundly spiritual work by the brilliant Ukrainian composer Silvestrov (who is rarely heard in North America) will bring the concert to an uplifting close.

Concert 3

Thursday, March 9, 2006



Toward a Living Art Special

North/White

R. Murray Schafer

O Magnum Mysterium:

In Memoriam Glenn Gould

Alexina Louie

Cancionero

José Evangelista

Alex Pauk - conductor

Young musicians of the Glenn Gould School
along with exceptional high-school student
performers join Esprit in this concert

8 pm concert

7:15 pm pre-concert talk

Jane Mallett Theatre, 27 Front Street East

Esprit is joined on stage by performers from the Glenn Gould School and students from Toronto area high schools in works by Schafer and Louie originally composed to include such young musicians. Schafer's *North/White* is a statement on the ecological devastation of the north (featuring a real snowmobile for dramatic effect) as well as a portrait of its beauty; while Louie's work transforms itself from a depiction of electronic images from space into a stream of contemporary string sonorities with fragments of Gould's favourite classical pieces surfacing and resurfacing. The concert is completed by Evangelista's "song collection" based on 17 traditional melodies from different regions in Spain.

Concert 4

Thursday, March 23, 2006



Esprit Premieres

* *Concerto for Piano*
* *New Work*
(d')Aller
Symphonies
in Slanted Time

Glenn Buhr
Alice Ping Yee Ho
Phillipe Leroux
Brian Current

Alex Pauk - conductor
Glenn Buhr – piano

* World Premiere

8 pm concert

7:15 pm pre-concert talk

Jane Mallett Theatre, 27 Front Street East

Esprit will give the world premieres of two exciting pieces (commissioned by Esprit) from accomplished Canadian composers, Alice Ping Yee Ho and Glenn Buhr (Buhr is also featured as piano soloist in his work). Current's dynamic piece, commissioned by the Indianapolis Symphony and New York's American Composers' Orchestra as well as Leroux's spectacular and virtuosic (d')Aller will both be receiving their Toronto premiere.

Concert 5

Thursday, May 18, 2006



New Wave Festival Gala

Sublimations

André Ristic

Violinissimo

José Evangelista

* *Concerto for Marimba*

Erik Ross

* *Concerto for*

Scott Good

Saxophone(s)

Alex Pauk - conductor

Ryan Scott - marimba

Wallace Halladay - saxophones

Scott St. John - violin

* World Premiere

8 pm concert

7:15 pm pre-concert talk

Jane Mallett Theatre, 27 Front Street East

Esprit's last concert serves as a finale for our 2006 New Wave Composers Festival and features Esprit-commissioned works by two young Canadian composers, Good and Ross. The concert will also feature a repeat performance of the exhilarating *Sublimations* by Ristic, a work commissioned and premiered by Esprit in 2004. The program will also include the series' third dazzling work by José Evangelista, Esprit's featured composer of the season. This year's New Wave Festival takes place between May 15 and May 18. (Visit www.espritorchestra.com for more details)



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Esprit's Concert Dates:

Concert 1

Thursday, October 27, 2005

Concert 2

Thursday, December 1, 2005

Concert 3

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Concert 4

Thursday, March 23, 2006

Concert 5

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Esprit Orchestra

Esprit is the only Canadian orchestra devoted exclusively to contemporary classical music, featuring new and established composers from Canada and around the world. Formed in 1983 by Music Director/Conductor Alex Pauk, Esprit Orchestra plays an important role in shaping the future of Canadian musical culture. Esprit concerts are recorded for broadcast by CBC Radio Two's *Two New Hours*.

Esprit in Your Community

IMPULSE EVENTS

Esprit will take its musicians out of the concert halls and put them into Toronto's galleries, libraries and other public spaces. It's your chance to attend a mini-concert free of charge, sample new music, discuss it, and experience the orchestra in non-typical formations and settings. For more information on Esprit events in your community visit www.espritorchestra.com or call 416-815-7887.



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Music Director's Message

The launch of every Esprit season provides a sense of exhilarating exploration for me, which I look forward to sharing with Esprit's musicians and audiences. This year is no exception. We have a line-up including sublime pieces by some of the best composers on the planet. A standout feature of the series will be a set of brand new Esprit-commissioned works that are guaranteed to generate contagious excitement.

As always, we've managed to enlist the highest level of guest artists and visiting composers. We'll be recording a new CD of works for voice and orchestra by Murray Schafer (one of which you'll hear on our opening concert) and we'll have broadcast premieres for two films with soundtracks featuring Esprit – *Burnt Toast* (short operas for television produced by Rhombus Media and marblemedia) and *The Face of Victory* (produced by Primitive Entertainment Inc.).

A "spatial" concert at Metropolitan United Church, with each piece requiring orchestral players to be distributed throughout the space in varying configurations, promises to be one of the most intriguing concerts we've ever presented. Our new *Impulse* concerts, taking place throughout the community in alternate, unusual settings, are the next stage in our burgeoning outreach activities. Esprit's *Toward a Living Art* education programme will have an enhanced profile and expanded activities including student concerts and a special week of workshops, rehearsals and performances combining young musicians with Esprit players – a super - sized orchestra will be formed for a project featuring music by Schafer, Louie and Evangelista – with the composers present as mentors.

Our annual New Wave Festival in May will again present Canadian composers in the early stages of establishing significant careers and will have more composers, concerts and workshops than ever. In other words, Esprit is in high gear to provide you with the opportunity for discovery.

I welcome you to explore new musical realms with Esprit.

Alex Pauk

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